



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re Application of:  
Gan Zhou

Serial No. 09/840,363

Filed: April 23, 2001

For: OPTICAL INTERFEROMETER FOR  
MULTIPLEXING OPTICAL SIGNALS

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Preliminary to examination of the above-cited application, please amend the application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please add the following new claims:

73. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a multiplexer operable to multiplex a plurality of input signals to produce the first input signal received by the tunable optical element.

74. The apparatus of claim 73 wherein the multiplexer comprises a selected one of an arrayed waveguide device, a diffraction grating device, a fiber Bragg grating device, a thin-film interference filter, or a second tunable optical element communicatively coupled to a second reflective element.

75. The method of claim 22 further comprising multiplexing a plurality of input signals to produce the first input signal.